(b) The reasons for slow export growth in recent years include international factors such as South East Asian crisis and world wide recession and domestic factors such as infrastructure bottlenecks.

(c) The targets for exports are fixed by Ministry of Commerce on an annual basis. The export targets fixed for 1999-2000 was 11.3%. As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics provisional data export growth for the period April-March, 1999-2000 is 11.58% over the corresponding period of the previous year, which exceeds the targets. The process of fixing up targets for the year 2000-2001 is still underway.

Special Concept of Industrial Development

†4408 SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have identified certain industries to develop them on the lines of a special concept of industrial development in the middle-north and North-East States of the Himalayan region;

(b) whether certain industries, which do not cause air and water pollution, will be identified and reserved for these Sates, which are zero industry States;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) With the de-control and market orientation of the economy, the Government does not direct investment into particular industries or particular regions. It creates an enabling macro-economic environment to promote efficient investment. The choice of the industry and location would be that of the investor. The industrial development in industrially under-developed areas is further supported by specific schemes, such as :

(i) Growth Centre Scheme

(ii) Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres Scheme

(iii) Transport Subsidy Scheme

(iv) Income Tax concession for backward districts.

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) in view of (a) above there is no proposal to reserve any industry for any particular State. Fiscal and other incentives have been provided to certain industries in the North-East.

Sick Industrial Units in North India

†4409 SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of public and private sector industrial units are sick in north India;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study taking this situation into account;

(c) whether Government are making efforts to revive the sick units in the interest of the country and society;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Data on sick industrial units, assisted by banks in the country, is compiled by the Reserved Bank of India (RBI). According to the RBI, the number of non-SSI sick/weak industrial units in public and private sector in north India (comprising Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and the union territories of Delhi and Chandigarh) as at the end of March 1999 (provisional), was 45 and 511 respectively.

The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, *interalia,* include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1985, National Equity Fund etc.

Removal of Quantitative Restrictions on Import

4410 SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have removed quantitative restrictions (QRs) on import of as many as 714 items;

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.